



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
Department of Homeland Security

Washington, DC 20528 / www.oig.dhs.gov

July 15, 2019

Tanvi Misra
MuckRock News, DEPT MR 74478
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, Massachusetts, 02144

Subject: Freedom of Information Act Request No.2019-IGFO-00198
Acknowledgement Letter

Dear Mr. Misra:

This acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG), dated July 8, 2019, seeking all materials relied upon by DHS-OIG in preparation of Report No. OIG-19-51, including, but not limited to, photographs, interview notes, and electronic or paper communications; all responses from Department of Homeland Security agency components, including, but not limited to ICE, CBP, and Immigrant Health Services Corps, regarding the recommendations in Report No. OIG-19-51; all follow-up communications from OIG to any DHS agency component or Congressional liaison based on Report No. OIG-19-51; all communications between OIG and subject-matter experts, including, but not limited to, public health officials. DHS-OIG received your request on July 8, 2019, and assigned it the above-referenced tracking number.

In your letter you request expedited processing of your request. For requests to be considered for expedited processing the requester's letter must indicate the basis on which such treatment is sought. Requests will be taken out of chronological order based on the date of receipt and given expedited treatment only when it is determined that they involve: (1) circumstances in which lack of such treatment could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual; (2) an urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity, if made by a person primarily engaged in disseminating information; (3) the loss of substantial due process rights; or (4) a matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government's integrity which affect public confidence. 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(e)(1)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv). Requesters seeking expedited processing are required to submit a statement

explaining in detail the basis for their request for expedited processing, and that statement must be certified to be true and correct. 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(e)(3).

You have requested expedited processing of your request under the Department's standard permitting expedition for requests involving an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual. 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(e)(1)(i). Based on the information provided, we have determined that your request for expedited processing under this standard should be denied. Your letter fails to provide a detailed explanation for seeking expedited processing as required by Department regulations. 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(e)(3). You have not explained how access to the requested records would alleviate a specific threat to the life or physical safety of an individual.

Your request has been placed in the queue for processing in the order in which it was received. Although DHS-OIG's goal is to respond within 20 business days of receipt of your request, the FOIA does permit a 10-day extension of this time period under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B). As your request will necessitate a thorough and wide-ranging search, Because of the need to examine a voluminous amount of records, DHS-OIG hereby invokes this 10-day extension for your request, and estimates a response to your request to be provided within 30 business days. Please note, however, that the actual time required to respond to your request depends on the number and types of responsive records identified and located in our records search. Unfortunately, we cannot predict exactly when your request will be processed, as we currently have a large backlog of requests. If you care to narrow the scope of your request, please contact our office. We will make every effort to comply with your request in a timely manner.

In accordance with DHS regulation 6 C.F.R. § 5.11(a), this letter also confirms your agreement to incur all applicable fees involved in the processing of your request, up to the amount of \$25.00. You will be notified should fees exceed this amount.

We have not yet made a decision on your request for a fee waiver. We will do so after we determine whether fees will be assessed for this request.

Appeal

You have the right to appeal DHS-OIG's action regarding your request for expedited processing. Your appeal must be in writing and received within 90 days after the date of this response. Please address any appeal to:

FOIA/PA Appeals Unit
DHS/Inspector General
STOP 0305
245 Murray Lane, SW
Washington, DC 20528-0305

Both the envelope and letter of appeal must be clearly marked, “Freedom of Information Act.” Your appeal letter must also clearly identify DHS-OIG’s response. Additional information on submitting an appeal is set forth in the Department of Homeland Security regulations at 6 C.F.R. § 5.8.

Assistance and Dispute Resolution Services

Should you need assistance with your request, you may contact DHS-OIG’s FOIA Public Liaison. You may also seek dispute resolution services from our FOIA Public Liaison. You may contact DHS-OIG’s FOIA Public Liaison in any of the following ways:

FOIA Public Liaison
DHS-OIG Counsel
STOP 0305
245 Murray Lane, SW
Washington, DC 20528-0305
Phone: 202-981-6100
Fax: 202-245-5217
E-mail: foia.oig@oig.dhs.gov

Additionally, the 2007 FOIA amendments created the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road - OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Web: <https://ogis.archives.gov>
Telephone: 202-741-5770
Fax: 202-741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

Should you have questions, contact us at 202-981-6100 or foia.oig@oig.dhs.gov. Refer to the above-referenced tracking number if you contact us regarding your request. If we require additional information, we will contact you.

Sincerely,

Carlita Blocker
FOIA/PA Disclosure Specialist